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**Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan**

By Doug Chandler

After receiving pressure from Congress to produce documented results from the 2.1 Billion dollars doled out in Homeland Security communication grants since 2002, The Department of Homeland Security is requiring each state to produce a Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan (TICP). Details of the \$2.1 Billion, including Utah's \$21.5M portion can be found at [this link](#). Future Homeland Security grants for not only states, but also their corresponding counties and local government agencies, will be dependent upon the successful completion of a TIC Plan, to include a Full Scale Exercise (FSE) test, by the end of the year.



Michael  
Chertoff

Boyd Webb and I attended the TIC Planning Conference in Washington DC last week. The purpose of the conference was to educate states and urban areas about how the TIC Plan Full Scale Exercise (FSE) will be evaluated. Michael Chertoff is the Secretary of Homeland Security. In his opening remarks, Secretary Chertoff used the opportunity to underline the fact that communications interoperability has almost nothing to do with technology, and everything to do with human interactions. He also pointed out that as we fail to work together towards interoperability, interoperability will continue to be defined by vendors.

The defined Urban Area within Utah for 2006 is Salt Lake County, and each of the cities within it's geographic area. Bob Halloran will be hosting the TIC Plan meetings at Salt Lake County's Emergency Operations Center. In a recent phone conference with participating agencies, it was decided that the FSE would involve an airline crash scenario. The exercise does not need to move beyond the scope of the plan, so in order to keep things as simple as possible, agencies will not be responding with hazmat gear, mock injuries, etc.; Only communications equipment, gateway devices, and other interoperable communications will be tested. Though the first stage of the TIC Plan starts with Salt Lake County, by December 31, 2007, the TIC Plan must encompass the entire state.

Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training is providing extensive assistance in not only writing the TIC Plan, but also in preparing for and documenting the FSE. Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) is the program that has been developed to provide this assistance. Click on the icon to the right to view their web site.

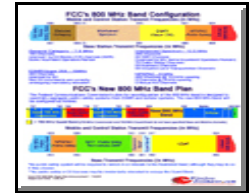


If you would like a copy of the latest version of the TIC Plan, please email [dchandler@utah.gov](mailto:dchandler@utah.gov) or [boydwebb@utah.gov](mailto:boydwebb@utah.gov) with your request.

## **UCAN Leads 800MHz Rebanding Effort in Utah**

By Steve Proctor, UCAN Executive Director

In five regional meetings held in Salt Lake City, Weber County, Tooele County, Utah County, and Davis County, the [Utah Communications Agency Network](#) met with 76 representatives from 800 MHz user agencies to discuss the upcoming rebanding of the frequencies. This effort will effect all users on the 800 system. With the FCC's order, changes will take place within the band causing user radios to be reprogrammed to the new frequencies. This will touch each of the 15,500 radios on the system. It will also be necessary to retune the infrastructure which includes 58 sites and over 400 repeaters. That will take place after all the radios are completed. The initial meetings were to discuss the process, why this is taking place, and to educate the agencies as to how the change will be made.



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The rebanding move has been mandated by the FCC to clear up interference between users in the 800 MHz band on commercial and public safety networks. The public safety community had the opportunity to provide input into the process and recommend changes. The changes will come in four waves across the country. Utah is in the first wave. This is a three year process. The benefits of this process include the elimination of the current interference experienced by users in the band, the availability of an additional 4.5 MHz of spectrum to public safety, a guard band between the different users and it moves the two public safety bands together (700 and 800 MHz) which should foster the development of new technologies for public safety.



[Click to Enlarge](#)

The transition has already started. The current effort is to identify and inventory all of the equipment needing changes. Agencies will be involved in providing inventory information for completion of the reprogramming. Initial indications are that the reprogramming will take place beginning in the September-October 2006 time frame, and be completed in the spring of 2007. Infrastructure will be changed in the spring of 07 and completed by December of 08.

### **Rebanding FAQ's:**

#### **Q: Who will pay for the changes?**

Sprint/Nextel will pay for all reasonable costs to reprogram or replace pieces of equipment.

#### **Q: Will there be service interruptions?**

There will be minimal service interruptions which will be scheduled and publicized before they happen.

#### **Q: What radios will be replaced?**

Generally the Motorola LCS/LTS, Maxtrac, MTX, and STX radios and the EFJohnson 7780 ,9880 and 9883. (including the accessories, batteries and chargers).

Continued >>

**Q: How will the process work?**

First, all radios will be reprogrammed with new software to coincide with the existing software. This will allow the radios to work on both the old and new channels. Then, the infrastructure will be changed to the new channels. The radios will then work on either set of channels until the total system is completed.

**Q: Will this change Features?** NO.

**Q: Will this change Coverage?** NO.

**Q: Will this affect dispatch centers?** NO.

**Q: Will this change any of the interoperability talkgroups, events channels, ops channels, or regional channels?** NO.

**Q: Will we have to change templates?** NO, templates will transfer to the new frequencies.

**Q: Will this affect the OMNILINKed portions of the network?** NO.

While we have completed the first round of meetings, there will be a second round held in the near future. Everyone on the 800 System needs to be aware of the changes and the timing of this effort. For more information Call UCAN at 840-4200. Concerns or questions can be emailed to [steve@ucan800.org](mailto:steve@ucan800.org).

We wish to thank all of the agencies who use the UCAN system and we will make every effort to make this as seamless and painless as possible. Please let us know of any concerns you might have.

THANK YOU!

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## **St. George City Turns Up New Receiver Voter System**

By Doug Chandler

Jeff Dial, St. George City's 911 Dispatch Center Manager, reports that their new VHF receiver voter network is now on-line. With a combination of transmitting stations and voted satellite receivers, the VHF capability and portable radio coverages are markedly improved. The system was designed by Floyd Ritter, State DTS Wireless Planner.

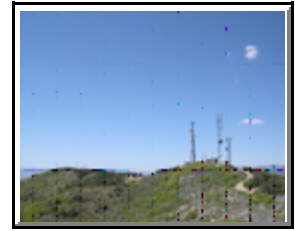
There was some question at the start of the project about the dwindling number of available VHF channels in the area. Arizona and Nevada have heavily licensed the VHF public safety spectrum in that region, and obtaining new frequency licenses was a difficult task. As the population growth in St. George continues to grow at an amazing rate, wireless technologies such as trunking will become necessary. Whether St. George's next evolutionary step in wireless technology remains in VHF, or migrates to 700/800 MHz will have to be addressed.

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## **BLM Gives Approval for Gillies Hill Site**

By Bill Sipes, DTS Site Manager

The State of Utah will soon begin construction on a new communication site on Gillies Hill. On Friday May 12, 2006, Dave Fletcher, Director of the Division of Enterprise Technology, signed the final documents for the permitting process. Gillies Hill is located just north of Beaver Utah. If you've ever traveled I-15 through Beaver, you've no doubt seen the site. It's just to the northwest of the Mandersfield exit. The site will be pivotal for public safety wireless coverage expansion along the I-15 corridor. With future restrictions on transmitter power and bandwidth, sites are migrating from the 10,000+ ft heights, down to be closer to the transportation corridors.



**Gillies Hill Site**

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## **Calendar**

### **UWIN Technology Steering Committee**

Thursday, May 18, 2006

10:00 am

Calvin Rampton Complex

UHP Large Conference Room

4501 S. 2700 W. Salt Lake City

Toll-free teleconference: 1-866-258-0959

Teleconference room #: \*1863421\* (must use asterisks)

### **UCAN Executive Committee Meeting**

June 20, 2006

2:00 pm

5360 South Ridge Village Drive (5885 West)

Salt Lake City, Utah

### **Navajo Nation IT Summit**

June 19-22, 2006

Hyatt Regency Hotel Downtown

Albuquerque, New Mexico

[www.nnits.navajo.org](http://www.nnits.navajo.org)



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